Ill

ROSSETTI, BERNHARDT, IRVING

1865—1867

MOST people know that Tom Taylor was one of the leading playwrights of the 'sixties as well as the dramatic critic of *The Times.,* editor of *Punch,* and a distinguished Civil Servant, but to us he was more than this—he was an institution ! I simply cannot remember when I did not know him. It is the Torn Taylors of the world who give children on the stage their splendid educa-tion, We never had any education in the strict sense of the word, yet, through the Taylors and others, we *were* educated. Their house in Lavender Sweep was lovely. I can hardly bear to go near that part of London now, it is so horribly changed. Where are its green fields and its chestnut-trees ? We were always welcome at the Taylors', and every Sunday we heard music and met interesting people—Charles Reade among them. Mrs. Taylor had rather a hard outside—she was like Mrs. Charles Kean in that respect—and I was often frightened out of rny life by her; yet I adored her. She was in reality the most tender-hearted, sympathetic woman, and what an admir-able musician I She composed nearly all the music for her husband's plays. Every Sunday there was music at Lavender Sweep—quartet playing with Madame Schumann at the piano.